

History of My C.C.C. Experiences

I was raised on a farm in Kansas- Graduated Hartford High 1933. Bad years, depression, drought, dust storm- crop failure- my parents could not pay the mortgage, lost our farm!

I heard about C.C.C. through our co. (*county?*) paper. No money for college, so I ask my parent about joining the C.C.C. I made the application at our co. courthouse, Burlington, Kansas. Fall 1935 was sent to Company 1709 Camp Toronto, Kans. To build a flood control and recreation lake. Horse drawn wagons to haul dirt & rock, clearing timber, living in old train boxcars barracks being heated by wood burning stoves. We had good food, clothing furnished. \$30.00 a month with \$25.00 sent home to parents. Younger brother and sister in High School. (\$5.00 for self) A healthy life for sports and hobbies- education opportunities & hard work!! Old dump trucks came in to use & I was promoted to a driver & I made the camp baseball team.

Winter of 1935 came transfer orders to Hartington, Nebr, to oil Conservation Camp. A nearly new campsite- our work was planting trees & shrubs for windbreak & soil conservation on highway & Parks. I was promoted to Asst. to Educational Advisor (Mr. Dirks a former school adm.) (\$5.00 mo pay increased) Record keeping, teaching typing, in charge of sports, the camp monthly news paper with selling advertising to cover printing costs, to the local merchants, encouraging enrollees to turn in articles of interest for camp paper. The 1936 winter was the hardest winter- much snow & cold temperatures with roads & railroads closed for days. I played basketball on camp team. (I met a girl at a New Year's Dance- fell in love later & we were married in 1939- now the same girl 63 year later!)

Fall of 1936 Company 1709 transferred to Lamon(*i*), IA, run a limestone rock quarry & stone cutting. The stone was used in bridges, trails & bldgs. In State Parks & roads. A small college was located there (Graceland College). Classes for enrollees was arranged for and facility for sports practice. I still had my Educational Dept. Ass't job. News Merchants to sell my adds for our Camp Paper.

The Spring of '37 our Company 1709 was transferred again to Ames, Ia. (I.S.C. was our next door neighbor) Our new Job was to "Man" the new "Iowa State Nursery" & it was supervised by I.S.C. Forestry Dept. And again I still (*had*) my same job- responsibility for classes (nites) at the College, putting out the camp news & selling advertising, to cover the printing. With sports & offering classes such as short-wave radio, typing, woodworking, surveying, forestry & helping writing up News for our paper.

!s Sept. 1937 my 30 month expired so I was up for discharge. My Boss (Mr. Dirk) gave me a very good refferance to get a job at the J.C. Penney Store. It was stockman- window trimming & handy man! I worked my way up to salesperson & later to a department head. The company policy was to transfere young people to other store as needed. You could turn down two transferees but not the third. By then I was married to my "Nebraska Sweetheart" Jeanne Durrie in 1939, & we wanted to stay in Ames. I applied at I.S. College 1941 Fall & was hired. The college was changed to a University (I.S.U.) I retired in 1984, (43 yrs) service.